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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Comprehensive study of the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations

Eleventh report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the Secretary-General's statement on the question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations (A/C.5/47/45). During the course of its consideration of the document, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.
2. The Advisory Committee recalls that by its resolution 46/185 A of 20 December 1991, section V, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit a report with appropriate proposals on honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations.
3. The Committee also recalls that, in its resolution 35/218 of 17 December 1980, the General Assembly decided to set the rates applicable for the payment of honoraria, with effect from 1 January 1981, to members of the International Law Commission, the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and the Human Rights Committee, bodies, which the Assembly had earlier decided should receive honoraria on an exceptional basis. Those rates are reflected in paragraph 1 of the Secretary-General's report.
4. In its resolution 36/240 of 18 December 1981, the General Assembly decided that the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women would be paid the rate of honoraria set out in resolution 35/218 and also decided, in its resolution 44/201 of 21 December 1989, that honoraria for members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child would also be payable at the rates authorized in resolution 35/218.

5. The Advisory Committee was informed by representatives of the Secretary-General that the members of those six bodies currently receiving honoraria also received travel and subsistence allowance at the standard rates plus 40 per cent, as outlined in ST/SGB/107/Rev.6 of 25 March 1991; thus honoraria are in addition to the conditions of service that apply to expert bodies generally.

6. For the reasons given in his report, the Secretary-General proposes to increase the existing rates of honoraria by 25 per cent. The revised rates payable to members of those six bodies which the General Assembly had already authorized on an exceptional basis would be as follows:

<u>Rate of honoraria</u>			
(United States dollars)			
	<u>Present</u> <u>rate</u> a/	<u>Proposed</u> <u>rate</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Chairman (presidents)	5 000	6 250	1 250
Vice-Chairmen of the International Narcotics Control Board	4 000	5 000	1 000
Other members	3 000	3 750	750
Additional amount payable to members of the International Law Commission, when acting as special rapporteurs, conditional upon the preparation of specific reports or studies between sessions of the Commission	2 500	3 125	625

a/ As authorized by the General Assembly in its resolutions 35/218, 36/240 and 44/201.

7. The Advisory Committee will not object to that proposal. That being said, there is little evidence in the report to suggest that a comprehensive review regarding such questions as to whether there might be other bodies within the system eligible for payment of honoraria, or the implications of introducing uniformity into the conditions for the payment of honoraria, have been dealt with.

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8. Should the General Assembly decide to revise the rates of honoraria as outlined above, effective 1 January 1993, the financial implications for 1993 have been estimated at \$86,625 (para. 16 and annex I). The Advisory Committee was informed that that estimate had been calculated at full cost and did not take into account payments for actual attendance.

9. In paragraph 54 of his report, the Secretary-General states that depending on the guidance that the General Assembly might provide during its current session on the relationship between workload and payment of honoraria to members of organs of the United Nations, it might be necessary to revert to the question at a later date.

10. The report of the Secretary-General indicates that the proposed honoraria would also be applicable to members of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families upon entry into force of the relevant International Convention (resolution 45/158, annex). Under the terms of article 72, paragraph 8, of the Convention, the members of the Committee shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the General Assembly may decide.

11. In paragraph 85 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, ^{1/} the Advisory Committee had stated that with the rapid expansion of the activities of the United Nations in certain areas, the work of some of its committees and commissions had increased dramatically and further stated its belief that the time had come for the Secretary-General to examine all of the consequences of that trend and to report thereon to the General Assembly with such recommendations as might be appropriate.

12. In part B, section VII, of its resolution 46/185, the General Assembly endorsed that statement, which was not directly related to the question of payment of honoraria but reflected views on the increase in the general workload of various committees and commissions.

13. The Advisory Committee does not believe that the concerns expressed in paragraph 85 of its above-mentioned report and endorsed by the General Assembly have been adequately addressed in the report of the Secretary-General. As for the proposal contained in paragraphs 54 and 55 of the report of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee refrains from comment, since it involves the Committee itself; the Advisory Committee transmits that proposal for appropriate action by the General Assembly. Should the Assembly approve the Secretary-General's recommendation contained in paragraphs 54 and 55 of his report, the estimated financial implication for 1993 would be \$46,000.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7).
